

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03591 140604Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-01 SP-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 EB-04
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /041 W
-----140606Z 065127 /10/50

O 131235Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 919

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3591

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI FROM LAHORE
13 APRIL RPEATED YOU:

QUOTE SECRET LAHORE 0353

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, PINT
SUBJECT: RUMORED ARREST OF PRIME MINISTER; INTERPARTY
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: KARACH 1709

1. IN ORDER CHECK OUT RUMOR (REFTEL) MET AT 11:00 A.M.
APRIL 12 WITH M.S. BAQIR, SECRETARY OF PPP CENTRAL CO-
ORDINATING COMMITTEE. INFORMED HIM THAT STORY CURRENTLY
GOING ROUND IN KARACHI PRESS CIRCLES THAT PRIME MINISTER
PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST ON APRIL 9 AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS
UNDER WAY REGARDING TERMS FOR HIS RESIGNATION. ASKED FOR
COMMENTS.

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2. BAQIR DISMISSED RUMOR OF HOUSE ARREST AS BASELESS.
SAID PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN MEETING DAILY WITH MANY
PARTY/GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SEEKING WAY OUT OF PRESENT
POLITICAL IMPASSE AND HAD ATTENDED DINNER FOR NEW PRO-
VINCIAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ON APRIL 10.

3. BAQIR WENT ON TO SAY THAT EXTREMELY COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND LEADERSHIP (UNIDENTIFIED) OF OPPOSITION. HE ATTRIBUTED CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO REPORT IN NAWA-I-WAQT THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL BAKHTIAR HAD REMARKED AT LAWYERS' RECEPTION RECENTLY HELD IN KARACHI THAT FRESH PROVINCIAL ELECTION COULD BE HELD AND THAT IF THEY RESULTED IN OPPOSITION VICTORY, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE DISSOLVED. BAQIR SAID THIS PROPOSAL HAD PRIME MINISTER'S ENDORSEMENT AND THAT ANY NEW ELECTIONS WOULD "THIS TIME" BE STRICTLY HONEST AND HELD UNDER ARMY SUPERVISION. HE ADDED THAT A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES ARE WORKING UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S DIRECTION STUDYING SUCH ITEMS AS DENATIONALIZATION OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIES AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF PROPOSALS BEING MADE TO OPPOSITION. HE SAID ALL OF THIS WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO WORK OUT AND THIS ACCOUNTED FOR PRIME MINISTER'S STAY IN LAHORE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE BAQIR IS NOT IN CENTER OF THIS TYPE OF PARTY ACTION AT THIS TIME, HE HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH KEY PARTY LEADERS AND PROBABLY HAS FAIRLY ACCURATE IDEA OF WHAT IS GOING ON. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO INDICATION AT THIS TIME THAT OPPOSITION IS IN A MOOD TO NEGOTIATE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, LAHORE PRESS CIRCLES WITH WHOM WE HAVE CHECKED CLAIM TO BE UNAWARE OF KARACHI RUMOR. GAMON UNQUOTE BYROADE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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